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§ 294. **Death of Robert H. Brownne.**—We have to mourn the loss of an ardent lover of botanical science, in the death of Robert H. Brownne, which occurred Feb. 15, 1879, by apoplexy. He was born in this city August 3, 1810. His father was a prominent ship-builder in the earlier part of the century, being the head of the firm of Brownne & Bell, who modelled and constructed for Robert Fulton the "Clermont," the first steamboat which navigated the Hudson River. Young Brownne had an ardent thirst for knowledge, and made good use of the advantages which he enjoyed at the New York High School, in which he was educated, and in which he for many years held a position as teacher. That institution was then under the charge of Dr. John Griscom and Rev. Daniel H. Barnes, both of them men of solid learning, "apt to teach," and well versed in physical and natural science, which previous to this period had been little taught in schools. Their enthusiasm in this direction and their personal magnetism gave most of their pupils a decided bent towards the study of nature. In early life Mr. Brownne was threatened with pulmonary disease, for which his physician prescribed active exercise in the open country. With the predilection acquired at school, it is not strange that he should now be led to take up botanical study as an additional incentive to the regimen prescribed. In 1833 he was elected a member of the N. Y. Lyceum of Natural History, and in 1837 he became its Recording Secretary, and continued to hold that office until a few years previous to his death. At the time of his entrance into this Society, its leading botanical members were Dr. Torrey, John Carey, Samuel T. Carey and Abraham Halsey, to whom soon after was added Dr. Asa Gray—now so pre-eminent. Brought into constant association with such men, Mr. Brownne could not fail to profit by their fellowship, and he became thoroughly versed in the botany of the Northern and Middle States. But his attainments were not limited to that field. He acquired a good knowledge of geology, mineralogy and conchology. His reading became extensive, and his acquaintance with bibliography and numismatics were not often excelled. After the dissolution of the N. Y. High School, he was appointed principal of the parochial school of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, which position he held to the day of his death. His reputation as an expert in mineralogy, conchology, bibliography and numismatics gave him wide employment in the work of arranging and cataloguing collections and libraries. For the last twenty-five years he had acted as librarian for Robert L. Stuart of this city. He was also Secretary of the North-western Dispensary. Modest and unassuming in manner, with every solid virtue and Christian grace, his memory is precious to those who knew him.

J. H. R.

§ 295. ***Aspidium aculeatum* in Pennsylvania.**—During the summer of 1878, Mr. J. P. Crozer Griffith found this fern growing freely in a rocky glen near the south-western corner of Sullivan Co., Pennsylvania. This locality is in a region elevated nearly 2,000 feet above tide, in latitude about  $41^{\circ} 15'$ . This is considerably farther south than has been noted for its occurrence in the United

States, the most southern localities previously known being in the Catskill Mts., N. Y. In Stony Clove, of those mountains, Mr. Redfield saw in 1865, and Mr. Isaac H. Hall has since seen it in the Kaaterskill Clove of the same mountains. J. H. R.

§ 296. **Publications.**—1. *American Journal of Science and Arts*, Jan. and Feb. From Dr. Gray's book notices we cull the following items. "The *Nelumbium* of South American proves to be *N. luteum* and the Japanese *N. nuciferum* is thought to be hardly different." "*Cucurbita Pepo* is thought to be of Asiatic origin; perhaps rightly. But our Indians had it, along with *Nicotiana rustica*, which is certainly an old-world species." The North American *Fungi exsiccati* of Messrs. Ravenel and Cooke, and of Messrs. Ellis and Farlow are noticed. The former may be obtained of H. W. Ravenel, Aiken, S. C., the latter of J. B. Ellis, Newfield, N. J. The Botanical necrology for 1878 is a long list: Elias Magnus Fries, of Upsal, aet. 84; Ludwig Pfeiffer of Cassel, aet. 72; Andrew Murray of Edinburgh, aet. 66; Andrew Bloxam, English, aet. 76; Francois Vincent Raspail of Paris, aet. 87; Sulpiz Kurtz of Calcutta; M. Durieu of Bordeaux, aet. 82; Charles Pickering, M.D., of Boston, aet. 73; Moritz Seubert of Carlsruhe, aet. 60; Thomas Thomson of Glasgow (and India), aet. 60; Giovanni Zanardini of Venice, aet. 74; Roberto de Visiani of Padua, aet. 77; Barthelemy Charles Du Mortier of Belgium, aet. 82; Elias Borszczow of Kiew (Russia); James McNab of Edinburgh, aet. 69; Stephen T. Olney of Providence, the Caricologist, aet. 66; James Watson Robbins, M. D., of Uxbridge, Mass., the authority on Potamogetons, aet. 77; James Bigelow, M. D., of Boston, "the most venerable of botanists," and of whom Dr. Gray promises a fuller notice. We are promised a notice of Dr. Robbins. 2. *The Botanical Gazette*, Jan. and Feb. Dr. Vasey describes a new *Panicum*, *P. littorale*, found by Mr. Charles Mohr of Mobile on the drifting sands of the Gulf coast. Mr. Coulter has been exploring the flora of Northern Indiana, Mr. Curtiss the Shell Islands off the coast of Florida. 3. *The American Naturalist*, Jan. and Feb. Prof. J. E. Todd writes on "certain contrivances for cross-fertilization in flowers," Iris, Martynia, Penstemon, Lobelia; John A. Ryder, on the ultimate physical unit of living matter; Alfred W. Bennett, on the "Absorption of water by the leaves of plants;" Moses N. Elrod on "Seeds of the Violet and other plants as projectiles." 4. *American Quarterly Microscopical Journal*, Hitchcock & Wall, 150 Nassau St., N. Y., contains several articles of interest; The classification of the Algae, with plate, Rev. A. B. Harvey; Forms of Saprolegnieae, continued, Frank B. Hine; Classification of the simplest forms of life, B. Eyferth.

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The Club meets regularly the second Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College at 7:30 P. M. Botanists are invited to attend. DR. THURBER the President of the Club may be found at 245 Broadway.